

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 INR-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 /022 W  
-----262322Z 067389 /12

P 262243Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7542

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 2421

FOR ARA/CEN

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TA: PGOV, CS  
SUBJECT: CANDIDACY OF JOSE MARIA FIGUERES AT U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY,  
WEST POINT

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN CONTACTED PERSONALLY BY EX-PRESIDENT  
JOSE FIGUERES ON SUBJECT OF HIS SON'S ACCEPTANCE FOR READMISSION  
TO WEST POINT TO COMPLETE HIS FINAL YEAR OF STUDIES.  
FIGUERES SAID THAT THE OFFICIAL LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE  
SENT TO JOSE MARIA EARLIER IN MAY WAS RECEIVED ON MAY 24. LETTER,  
GAVE DEADLINE OF MAY 20 FOR NOTIFICATION TO ACADEMY OF  
CANDIDATE'S PLANS. PRESIDENT FIGUERES ASKED THAT EMBASSY PASS  
FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO WEST POINT:

1) THAT HIS SON IS ATTEMPTING TO CALL THE ACADEMY DIRECTLY  
TO TALK ABOUT HIS SITUATION.

2) THAT YOUNG FIGUERES PLANS TO TRAVEL TO THE  
UNITED STATES OVER WEEKEND AND TO BE AT  
WEST POINT MAY 30.

2. YOUNG FIGUERES WILL ASK FOR A YEAR'S LEAVE OF ABSENCE,  
AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLETE HIS FINAL YEAR OF STUDY IN  
1978-79. REASON FOR THIS REQUEST IS JOSE MARIA'S DEEP IN-

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VOLVEMENT IN HIS FATHER'S BUSINESS OF PREFABRICATED HOUSE  
PRODUCTION: THE COMPANY IS IN PROCESS OF MANUFACTURING  
AND DELIVERING 8,500 SUCH UNITS TO VENEZUELA (ITS FIRST  
BIG CONTRACT IN THIS FLEDGLING ENTERPRISE) AND JOSE MARIA  
HAS BECOME HIS FATHER'S TRUSTED AND KEY COMPANY OFFICIAL IN  
THIS MATTER.

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3. COMMENT: IF ACADEMY CAN DO IT, THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS STRONGLY THAT YOUNG FIGUERES' REQUEST BE GRANTED. THE EX-PRESIDENT, WHO HAS SUFFERED A POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DECLINE OVER THE PAST YEAR OR SO, IS DEPENDING HEAVILY ON THE VENEZUELAN CONTRACT. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, JOSE FIGUERES' POLITICAL ACTIVITIES ARE SOMETIMES AFFECTED BY HIS ECONOMIC FORTUNES; A WELL RUN BUSINESS VENTURE, WHICH MAY WELL DEPEND ON JOSE MARIA'S ASSISTANCE, COULD HAVE A STABILIZING EFFECT ON FIGUERES IN THE POLITICAL AREA.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPARTMENT INFORM APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES AT UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY OF YOUNG FIGUERES' REQUEST, AND EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDATION.

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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